Funds for creating environmental awareness

*48. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earmarked any funds for creating awareness about green environment and the protection of forests through visual media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have funded for telecasting documentaries, telefilms or serials for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NA-RAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Earmarking of funds specifically for creating environmental awareness, including about afforestation and forest protection through visual media has only been done in the last two years, as follows:

1995-96	Rs. 85.00 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 75.00 lakhs

(c) and (d) Government have been funding the preparation of video films, including documentaries and serials, for telecast on Doordarshan for the purpose of creating awareness about afforestation and forest protection. The actual expenditure varies from year to year.

Development of molecular tools by ICAR

*49. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the work done by the ICAR in the area of development of molecular tools;

(b) whether the experiments of suspension cell cultures were successful particularly in the area of rice;

(c) how will this research be used for the benefit of farmers; and

(d) the steps being taken to promote more research in this area?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) Research accomplishments towards development of molecular tools for application in crop improvement broadly include (a) development of protocols for another culture derived diha-ploids and somaclonal variants; (b) Development of protocols for marker aided selection for improving selection efficiency and; (c) Development of molecular techniques (DNA finger printing and use of molecular probes) for authentication of plant varieties.

(b) Yes, the suspension cell culture method has been successfully adopted by several laboratories for isolation of protoplasts in the area of rice.

(c) Genetically engineered plants would help increase/stabilize the yield level, resist key pests and diseases and add value to the varieties.

(d) For carrying out biotechnology research, infrastructural facilities (well equipped laboratories) and manpower have been developed at several institutes of ICAR. Collaboration has also been developed with international institutes like IRRI, ICGEB, ICRISAT, CIMMYT etc.

Misleading advertisements regarding foreign courses

*50. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign courses like Hotel Management, Business Administration etc. at the Graduate and Post-Graduate levels not recognised by AICTE are being advertised in newspapers (Times of India dated 1.9.96) to attract Indian students;

(b) whether there is no monitoring to check misleading advertisements regard-